

NEWS FROM



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

1790 BROADWAY
ROY WILKINS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10019

212 245-2100
HENRY LEE MOON
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

FOR RELEASE: UPON RECEIPT

March 9, 1968

NAACP LAUNCHES DRIVE
TO IMPLEMENT REPORT
OF RIOT COMMISSION

NEW YORK. -- Units of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People throughout the country are being called upon to work for implementation of the recommendations of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders.

Announcement of the NAACP action program was made by Executive Director Roy Wilkins on the ABC network television program, "Issues and Answers," Sunday, April 3, the day the Commission's report was formally released. Mr. Wilkins, a member of the 11-person Commission, appeared on the program with Gov. Otto Kerner, chairman of the Commission, and Sen. Fred Harris (D., Okla.), a Commission member.

Responding to a question by a television newsman, the NAACP leader said: "We intend to begin work on the Commission recommendations tomorrow morning throughout our organization. The findings of the Commission will be placed before each of the more than 1,500 NAACP branches and they will be asked to work on these problems from the local level through the state level and on up through the Congressional level."

In support of the Commission's finding that ^{the} Negro's plight is the result of white racism, Mr. Wilkins said that "the majority of Americans have excluded the Negro from their concepts of political morality, economic right-doing. He is just an outsider. ... We never consider it a violation of what we do in our legislative halls or how we interpret the Constitution, or how we administer justice. The Negro has been placed in a separate category; he is outside the pale."

Mr. Wilkins was also interviewed on an NBC network television news program, on Mayor John V. Lindsay's Sunday night New York City

program, on educational television and on local and network radio programs. John A. Morsell, NAACP assistant executive director, appeared on the NBC-TV program, "Direct Line." In addition the opinion of local and state NAACP leaders throughout the country was sought by the news media.

More than a week after its release the Commission report continues to be a top news topic and a recurrent subject of conversation at all levels. President Johnson, speaking to a group of businessmen, recommended that they read the report carefully. Mayor Lindsay directed all top New York City officials to study the report.

THREE NEGROES NAMED
TO ALA. DRAFT BOARDS

March 9, 1968

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.---As a direct result of pressures brought by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the first three Negroes in the history of Alabama have been appointed to the state's draft boards by Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey.

The Rev. K. L. Buford, Alabama NAACP field director, reports that the Association called upon both Gov. Lurleen Wallace and Gen. Hershey to withhold appointments until the names of Negroes were considered for vacancies.

Clarence Mitchell, director of the NAACP's Washington Bureau, informed Mr. Buford that three Negroes have now been appointed to serve in Birmingham, Mobile and Huntsville.

All of the Deep South states now have Negroes on some draft boards except Mississippi.

SAVANNAH NAACP IN
NEW CIVIC COUNCIL

March 9, 1968

SAVANNAH, Ga. -- Under the direction of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, a Greater Savannah Civic Council has been organized here. Launey F. Roberts, Jr., assistant principal of the John W. Hubert High School, will represent the Savannah NAACP Branch on the new council.

The by-laws of the city-wide body stipulate that membership will be open only to clubs affiliated with national or international organizations.

Mr. Roberts said that if prospective members are required to have national or international affiliation, most Negro clubs would be

3